(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the number of complaints received during the last one year and till date; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken to bring about improvement in the sanitary conditions at all the railway stations and passenger trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, sir.

(b) Does not arise. 952 complaints were received during last year, which were attended to promptly.

(c) Various actions taken to improve sanitation on Railway stations and in trains include strengthening of monitoring and supervision, introduction of Pay and Use scheme of toilets at stations emphasis on mechanized cleaning processes, provision of washable aprons and additional dustbins, regular removal of garbage, spraying of insecticides, repairs to drains, monthly intensive cleaning of coaches, use of high pressure jet cleaning plants at coaching depots and mobile jet cleaning machines at stations enroute, use of improved and eco friendly cleaning agents, use of various media to educate the passengers & seeking their cooperation to keep Railway areas and trains clean.

Lending of shops by SER to private parties

3291. SHRI R. S GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the South-Eastern Railway has discontinued the practice of lending shops on Railway land to private parties on rent;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that number of shops are vacant due to this policy and causing huge losses to Railways ;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures proposed for proper utilisation of Railway property?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Price of Rail Neer

3292. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways pure bottled water 'Rail Neer' is freely available in running trains as well as in the open market;

(b) whether its price is higher than the other bottled water available in the market; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

T,HE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Rail Neer is available at the stations over Northern Railway and North Central Railway and some of the trains originating from Delhi area. Rail Neer is meant for Railway passengers and, as such, is not made available in the open market.

(b) and (c) The sale price of 'Rail Neer' on Railway premises including trains is Rs. 10/- per 1000 ml bottle.

Discrimination in recruitment in NF Railway

3293. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that local aspirants for posts in North Frontier Railway are deprived of by the Railway Board from recruitment;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the cause of appointing only 16 local aspirants, when about 1000 posts were given to the aspirants from outside the North East Region of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Recruitment figures are not maintained State-wise. Railway recruitment Boards have an all India character. Railway Recruitment Boards recruit staff to various Group 'C and 'D' posts calling for applications from candidates from all over the country. The recruitment is done on the basis of the individual performance and merit position of the candidate without any cognizance to the state, region, creed or religion of the candidate.